

S. _____

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

October 2000

Mr. WYDEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____.

A BILL

To amend the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984 to include the Copper Salmon Wilderness Area in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Copper Salmon Wilderness Act of 2000'.

SECTION 2. FINDINGS

Congress finds that –

- (1) The proposed Copper Salmon Wilderness area, comprising approximately 10,900 acres, includes a significant portion of an inventoried roadless area adjacent to the Grassy Knob Wilderness area protected by the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1131 note; 98 Stat. 272);
- (2) the proposed Copper Salmon Wilderness area includes –
 - (A) the North Fork of Elk River (a Tier 1 Key Watershed); and
 - (B) the upper Middle Fork of the Sixes River;
- (3) the fisheries of the Elk River are recognized as the best salmon and steelhead producers in the

48 contiguous States, producing more salmon per square meter than any other river outside of Alaska;

- (4) although the proposed Copper Salmon Wilderness area is designated as Late Successional Reserve under the Northwest Forest Plan, that designation provides only limited temporary protection for the last remaining mammoth Port Orford Cedars in Elk River;
- (5) protection of the proposed Copper Salmon Wilderness area is supported by the local communities, which have passed wilderness supporting resolutions;
- (6) the master plan for the economic stability of Curry County includes ecotourism and recreation as primary sources of income; and
- (7) permanent protection for the proposed Copper Salmon Wilderness area is needed to conserve the environment in southwestern Oregon.

SEC. 3.DESIGNATION OF THE COPPER SALMON WILDERNESS. –

Section 3 of the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1131 note; 98 Stat. 272) is amended

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- (1) by striking “eight hundred fifty-nine thousand six hundred acres” and inserting “eight hundred seventy thousand five hundred acres”;
- (2) in paragraph (29), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and
- (3) by adding at the end the following:

“(30)certain land in the Siskiyou National Forest, which comprises approximately ten thousand nine hundred acres, which is generally depicted on a map entitled “PROPOSED Copper Salmon Wilderness Area”, and which shall be known as the Copper Salmon Wilderness’.”